

## ABERRATIONS OF BRITISH LEPIDOPTERA

By B. K. WEST, B.Ed.\*

The numbering of the specimens is coincidental with that of the accompanying figure. All the specimens described are in the collection of B. K. West.

1 *Opisthograptis luteolata* L. ab. *nebulata* **ab. nov.**

Forewing: yellow; antemedian fascia well marked, ochreous, and area basal to this suffused greyish-brown. Discal spot normal; subapical blotch distinct, and from it to dorsum is a conspicuous zigzag postmedian fascia, shaded outwardly to form a greyish-brown irregular band. Central and marginal areas clear yellow. Hindwing: yellow, central macule prominent, and postmedian and central lines well developed.

Type: Dartford, Kent, 7.vi.1979, B. K. West.

A rare but distinct and readily identified form of which two other specimens are known to me. One, Labelled Mull, Oct. 1877 is in the National Collection, and the second taken by R. I. Lorimer at Totteridge, Herts. in 1963 is depicted in the volume for that year of the *Proc. S. Lond. ent. nat. Hist. Soc.*

2 *Chesias rufata* Fab. ab. *obliterata* **ab. nov.**

Forewing: pale grey, slightly darker basally, and darker distal to barely visible postmedian fascia (normally distinct and dark brown at costal end), the dark shading interrupted by two pale terminal lines.

Type: Dartford Heath, Kent, 17.iv.1966, bred from feral larva by B. K. West.

Not represented in National Collection.

3 *Crocallis elinguaris* L. ab. *restricta* **ab. nov.**

Forewing: the dark transverse central band from costa terminates in centre of wing, and is represented by a dot on the dorsum.

Type: Dartford, Kent, 3.viii.1979, B. K. West.

This form is not represented in the National Collection, and is evidently rare. It appears to be an extreme development from ab. *obviaria* Ljungdahl in which the transverse band terminates at a point at the dorsum, a not uncommon variety.

4 *Hada nana* Hufn. ab. *confusa* **ab. nov.**

Forewing: ochreous-grey; dark subapical blotch and subterminal fascia. Dark terminal fascia interrupted by paler veins, fringes similar. Dark markings basal to subterminal line vestigial,

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KEY – 1. *Opisthograptis luteolata* ab *nebulata*; 2. *Chesias rufata* ab *obliterata*; 3. *Crocallis elinguarina* ab *restricta*; 4. *Hada nana* ab *confusa*; 5. *Ochropleura plecta* ab *fenestrata*; 6. *Orthosia stabilis* ab *fumosa*; 7. *Mimas tiliae* ab *discifera*; 8. *Orthosia stabilis* ab *mediofusca*; 9. *Noctua comes* ab *postplumbea*; 10. *Mimas tiliae* ab *pseudobipunctata*; 11. *Erannis defoliaria* ab *anomala*; 12. *Spilosoma lubricipeda* ab *imperfecta*.

comprising mainly blackish distal edge of discal spot, and in line with this some dark scaling in interspaces 1b and 2. Veins paler as in normal *nana*. The vestigial dark markings cause a somewhat dappled effect.

Type: Graveney, Kent, 3.vii.1971, B. K. West.

Not represented in the National Collection which does contain specimens approaching ab. *obsoleta* Tutt—“ashy grey as typical, but without the dark markings round the stigmata, the whole being comparatively unicolorous.” The two forms seem quite distinct.

5 *Ochropleura plecta* L. ab. *fenestrata* **ab. nov.**

Forewing: largely descaled. Apical blotch present, and normal brownish scaling is continued along the termen to a width of two to three mm. Basal to this is a paler zone of similar width, and this is continued to base of wing along costa and dorsum.

Type: Dartford, Kent, 27.vii.1977, B. K. West.

I know of no specimen resembling this. The form may be genetic corresponding with a similar aberration of *Gonodontis bidentata* Clerck.

6 *Orthosia stabilis* D. & S. ab. *fumosa* **ab. nov.**

Forewing: blackish brown, slightly reddish around stigmata, but stigmata black, distinct and outlined whitish. Submarginal line distinct, whitish. Veins crossing area between submarginal line and termen whitish. Hindwing: smoky.

Type: Aviemore, Inv., 12.iv.1971, B. K. West.

This is darker than ab. *suffusa* Tutt. I have seen no other specimen of *stabilis* as darker as this and it would appear to be an example of ancient melanism characteristic of non-industrial areas. I have seen no trend towards melanism in this species in N. W. Kent.

7 *Mimas tiliae* L. ab. *discifera* Closs.

The specimen illustrated in which the costal blotch of the forewing encloses an area of ground colour was obtained from a feral pupa from Orpington, Kent; emerged 14.v.1974. The National Collection contains seven specimens, all from N. W. Kent, and all, including my specimen have whitish orange forewings and orange suffused hindwings.

8 *Orthosia stabilis* D. & S. ab. *mediofusca* **ab. nov.**

Forewing: the area between the central fascia and submarginal line appears darker due to heavier speckling. The ground colour is grey.

Type: Dartford, Kent, 20.iv.1971, B. K. West.

Curiously this banded form is distinctly uncommon, and the one described is the only one I have seen, although fig. 33, plate 30 in *Moths of the British Isles*, (Skinner 1984), would seem to depict this form.

9 *Noctua comes* Hubn. ab. *postplumbea* **ab. nov.**

Hindwing: greyish yellow; border and lunule blackish with grey sheen; veins distinct, greyish; entire wing has pronounced sheen. Type: Forres, Moray, 6.viii.1963, B. K. West.

Paratype: Findhorn, Moray, 14.viii.1971, B. K. West.

The type specimen has forewings reddish, the paratype greyish. I have seen other specimens in collections, all are from the Highlands of Scotland, and vary in the intensity of the greyish sheen.

10 *Mimas tiliae* L. ab. *pseudobipunctata* Lempke.

Forewing: costal blotch present; second spot is separated from inner margin. The specimen illustrated is a male which emerged from a feral pupa from Orpington, Kent, 4.v.1982. A distinct and readily identified form which seems to be rare; there are two bred specimens in the National Collection labelled Southend, Essex, 1940, H. B. Williams.

11 *Erannis defoliaria* Clerck ab. *anomala* **ab. nov.**

Forewing: blackish brown; discal spot black, fringe chequered dark brown and whitish. Hindwing smoky, fringe pale.

Type: Dartford Heath, Kent, 4.xii.1976.

My series of melanic *defoliaria* from Chingford, Essex, appear identical except that the fringes of the forewings are uniformly dark as are those of the hindwings. Both forms are present in the National Collection, and in the case of the former the chequered fringes vary considerably in their depth of contrast.

12 *Spilosoma lubricipeda* L. ab. *imperfecta* **ab. nov.**

Forewing: Spotting is confined to the basal two-thirds of the wing, with the exception of occasional minute dots.

Type: Dartford, Kent, 26.vi.1980, B. K. West.

Paratypes: Dartford, Kent, 24.vi.1972, B. K. West,  
Orlestone, Kent, 20.vi.1984, B. K. West.

This is a not uncommon form, and in all the specimens I have seen the forewing spotting has been light, and there has been some trace of minute dots to be seen with a hand lens in the outer area of the forewing.

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